Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1954.

Davies & Sons (N.). Ltd., Printers, Newtown, Tel. 520

Urban District Council of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn.

Public Health and Water Committee.

Chairman:
Councillor Dr. A. G. SMITH.

Councillors Mrs. M. J. Davies.
R. J. Brymer-Griffith.
I. E. Barrett.
J. I. Morris.
J. P. Thomas, B.A.
W. G. Ivor Jones.

STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
AMELIA EVANS, M.B., M'B.. B.Ch., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR:
W. G. DAVIES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:
Mr. C. W. PARCELL, who had been employed with the Council as assistant Sanitary Inspector for 2 years, left in March, 1954, to take up a post at Godmanchester, Hants. His place was taken by Mr. J. W. JONES who commenced his duties on July 1st, 1954.

Rodent Operator - Harry Matthews.

Administrative Clerk - Idris Owen.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHAIARN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year 1954. It is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 28/54.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The Births rate for 1954 was lower than in 1953. In 1953. it was 19.12 per 1,000 population and in 1954 it was 15.49.

The Birth Rate in the County as a whole was 15.50 and in the Urban Districts of the County it was 14.96.

There were 4 still births in 1954, compared with the same number in 1953. But in 1954 this gives a rate of 4.8% of live births, whereas in 1953 the percentage was 3.8.

There were 2 illegitimate births, both of them live births. Whereas in 1953 there were 7 illegitimate births. The percentage of illegitimate births to total births was 2.3 and for the urban districts it was 3.3 and for the whole County was 4.3.

Infant Mortality.

There were two deaths of infants under one year of age, and both occurred in the first four weeks of life. They were twin boy and girl age three days who died from prematurity,

This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births, compared with 5 per 1,000 for the urban districts and 26 per 1,000 for the whole County.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 53 being a rate per 1,000 of 9.89.

For the urban districts this was 12.69 and for the County 12.32.

There was one death from tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action had to be taken under this section. In connection with this section I must again pay tribute to the work of the Home Help Service in providing domestic help to elderly people who remain in their own homes. Also during the year the Welfare Department of the County Council has opened another home for the elderly and this is Plas-cae-crwn, Newtown. This home provides accommodation for both men and women.

I must express my sincerest thanks to Mr. W. G. Davies for his willingness to be of assistance in many ways in endeavouring to maintain a high standard of Public Health in the district. Many and varied are the complaints that the Health Dept. receive but with the help of the assistant Sanitary Inspector these are dealt with in an efficient manner.

To Mr. Harry Nock, the Clerk, and his assistant, Mr. Norman Davies, I must pay tribute. Their kindness and advice on numerous occasions are most invaluable and very much appreciated.

To the County Health Department, I also express my thanks. Holding a joint appointment as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer, I have frequent opportunities of availing myself of the assistance in many matters, both professional and administrative, that Dr. Ivor Jones, the County Medical Officer of Health and his department give me.

To the members of the Health Committee, I should also like to express my thanks for the keen interest they have shown in the work of the Health Department.

Mr. Chairman and Members, I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS,
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1955.

Statistical Survey.

	1954.	1953.
Area in acres	7,224	7,224
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)	5,360	5,334
Rateable value	£28868	£28,606
Sum represented by one penny rate	£111 7s. 5d.	£108 7s. 10d.

Population changes in Newtown since 1921.

1921 census.		1931 census.		1951 census.	
Pop.	%County pop.	Pop.	%County pop.	Pop.	%County pop.
5560	11.05	5154	10.63	5431	11 81

Changes in population of the four wards of the District.

	1931 census.	1951 census.
No. 1 (North) Ward	1,573	1 552
No. 2 (Central) Ward	970	885
No. 3 (East) Ward	1,399	2,027
No. 4 (West) Ward	1,212	967

VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on Registrar-General's mid-year estimate).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	1954.			1953.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	36	45	81	52	43	95
Illegitimate	1	1	2	5	2	7
Total	37	46	83	57	45	102

Birth Rate per 1,000 population for Newtown	15.49	19.12
For Urban districts of County	14.96	
For Montgomeryshire	15.50	16.06

STILL BIRTHS.

	1954.			1953.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	1	3	4	3	1	4

Still Births as % of Total Births:		
For Newtown	4.8	3.8
For Urban Districts	2.6	
For Montgomeryshire	2.3	2.2

Infant Mortality.

	1954.	1953.
The Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births).		
For Newtown	24.	9.
For the Urban Districts	15.	
For Montgomeryshire	26.	30.

Deaths.

	1954.			1253,		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	23	30	53	29	31	60
Death Rate per 1,000 pop.:						
For Newtown		9.89			15.92	
For the Urban Districts		12.69				
For Montgomeryshire		12.33			12.40	

Age at death—all causes.

	1954.			1953.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0—1 years	1	1	2	0	1	1
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	1	0	1
25—	0	0	0	0	1	1
35—	1	0	1	2	1	3
45—	1	2	3	1	1	2
55—	2	6	8	6	2	8
65—	12	10	22	8	6	14
75—	4	10	14	11	15	26
85—	2	1	3	0	4	4
Total	23	30	53	29	31	60

Causes of Deaths.

	1954.			1953.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menigococcal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0

Malignant neoplasm of stomach	0	0	0	4	0	4
do. lung, bronchus	0	0	0	1	0	1
do. breast	—	0	0	—	0	0
do. uterus	—	0	0	—	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	0	1	0	1	1
Leukaemia	0	2	2	2	0	2
Diabetes	0	1	1	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6	10	1	8	9
Coronary diseases (Angina)	5	3	8	5	1	6
Hypertension with heart disease	1	0	1	1	0	1
Other heart disease	4	8	12	11	10	21
Other circulatory disease	0	4	4	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2	0	0	0
Bronchitis	1	1	2	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1	0	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nephritis, and nephrosis	0	1	1	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	0	—	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	0	—	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1	3	0	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1	1	0	1
All other accidents	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
	23	30	53	29	31	60

Infectious Diseases.

Whooping Cough None.
Poliomyelitis None.
Measles—None.
Diphtheria—None.

Scarlet Fever—One case in a girl aged three.

Acute Pneumonia (6 cases) : 2 males, ages 57 and 82 years.
4 females, ages 1, 3, 38 and 56 years.

Notifications by the Quarters of 1954 :

1st quarter to March 31st ..... Scarlet fever, one case.
Acute pneumonia 5 cases.
2nd quarter to June 30th ..... None.
3rd quarter to Sept. 30th ..... Acute pneumonia, one case.
4th quarter to Dec. 31st ..... None.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified in 1954 ..... 7.
Pulmonary, 4. Males, 3, ages 19. 56 and 69 years.
Females, 1, aged 54.
Non-pulmonary, 3. Female age 26 affecting pelvis.
Female, age 27, with glands of neck affected.
Female, age 62, with glands of neck affected.

DEATHS from tuberculois:
One male aged 69 first notified in 1954.

RECOVERED:

1. Male with pulmonary tuberculosis first notified in 1944 when aged 26 years.
2. Male with tubercular spine originally notified in 1946 when aged 27 years,
3. Male with pulmonary tuberculosis first notified in 1948 when aged 27 years.

Total on register at the end of the year ..... 41.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance.

The local service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Newtown 205.
After 5 p.m. Newtown 359.

Sitting car service,—all requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown.

Childrens' Officer.

The Childrens' Officer is:—

Mr. Parsons,
Childrens' Department, County Offices,
Welshpool. Telephone, Welshpool 228.

The Childrens' Reception Home is at:—

12, Bronwylfa, Welshpool.
Telephone, Welshpool 109.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing.

The district is served by:—

Sister C. Lloyd Jones,
Bryneglwys, Newtown. Telephone, Newtown 497.

Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor for this area is:—

Miss N. L. Jones,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

Home Help Service.

Home Help is available in certain cases on application to the Supervisor:—

Mrs. R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

Hospitals.

The Montgomery County Infirmary is controlled by the Mid-Wales Management Committee based in Aberystwyth. Medical, Surgical and Maternity cases are admitted.

Sanatoria: North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh.
Chest Hospital, Machynlleth.

Infectious Diseases: Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Laboratory Service.

Bactoriological examinations ore carried out by the Public Health Labotatory Service at:—

Donald-Hudson Pathological Labotatories,
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

and Cardiganshire General Hospital.
Aberystwyth. Telephone, Aberystwyth 216.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is responsible for this service.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month at the Wesleyan School Room at 2-30 p.m.

Tuberculosis.

This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas, hold clinics at the County Infirmary 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 11 a.m.

Vaccination.

In this area vaccination is carried out by the local General Practitioners.

Diphtheria Prophlavis.

This service is available through the local General Practitioner and through the County Health Service in the Infant Welfare Clinic and iu the Schools.

Protection against Whooping Cough.

This is now available through the local General Practitioner and in the Welfare clinics.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held :—

(a) 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Men —Tuesdays and Fridays, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Women —Mondays and Wednesdays—3-30 p.m.—5-30 p.m.

(b) The Dispensary, Brook St., Oswestry.

Men —Thursdays, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.

Women—Thursdays, 2 p m.—3 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to contribute to the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1954.

Progress was made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions, five closing orders were made, and complete clearance made of the huts used as dwellings on Dolfor Road, the Council re-housing nearly all of the tenants. However. the problem of sub-standard housing remained acute in the Town.

It is interesting to note that in the field of meat inspection, after de-control in June the percentage of meat condemned fell to a very low figure, reflecting credit on the quality of animals slaughtered.

Good progress was also made towards the provision of a new trunk main from the Council's Reservoir to the Filter House, the scheme having gone out to tender before the end of the year. It does seem unreasonable that work of this kind in an Urban area of decided rural character should not rank for grant aid under the Rural Sewerage and Water Act of 1944.

Good progress was also made in the realm of food hygiene.

I wish to thank particularly the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and interest at all times, and also the Medical Officer of Health for her help and encouragement, and to the Clerk of the Council and other officers for their very ready co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. DAVIES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,480 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below :—

Summary :

(1)	Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	242
(2)	Number of houses inspected for other than housing defects	61
(3)	Premises other than houses inspected	153
(4)	Premises re-inspected (including houses)	472
(5)	Works in progress (including houses)	94
(6)	Miscellaneous visits	1458
		2480

Clearance areas and Individual Unfit Houses :

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act during the year, but five houses were dealt with under closing orders.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts) 242

Repairs : Informal action—

Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action 59

Action made under Statutory Powers —

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945 :—

By Local Authority	202
By private enterprize	57

Number of houses erected during 1954 :—

By Local Authority	36
By private enterprise	19

Housing Act, 1949. Improvement Grants :

Applications for improvements grants under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, are dealt with by the Montgomery County Council, to whom the Local Authority has delegated its power.

Tempovary Accommodation :

All the Dolfor Road huts were vacated by the end of the year and the tenants re-housed by the Council. Ten huts remained in occupation at 31st December in Glandulas Camp.

MEAT INSPECTION :

All animals slaughtered in the district up to the 30th June were inspected at the Ministry of Food House in Stone Street. On de-rationing the Council took over the premises and all the slaughtering in the area up to Decembar 31st was carried out in these premises.

Condemned meat was dealt with as hitherto and liason with the Animal Health Bureau maintained, particularly with swine fever outbreaks.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total
Total killed	57	37	5124	270	5488
Total inspected	57	37	5124	270	5488

Diseases other than T.B.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total
(Whole carcases)	17	3	363	22	435
Part carcases condemned	271	9	323	12	615
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	29.8%	8.1%	7.1%	8.1%	
Whole carcases. T.B only	4	1		1	6
Part carcases condemned – T.B.	118	8		9	135

WATER SUPPLY:

The supply position improved, only isolated outbreaks occurring of poor supply. This was due principally to corroded mains and services. The anti-waste measures carried out in recent years was largely responsible for the improvement of supply. Inhibition of corrosion was achieved to a marked degree due to the use of sodium hexa-metaphosphate.

375 houses still remain supplied by standpipes.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES:

During the year, 16 cwts., 2 qrs., 16 lbs., of foodstuffs including canned foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

A survey was carried out of food premises during the year, and also of licensed premises. Structural defects were found in many cases and appropriate notices served. Many infringements were found in regard to food hygiene. Some premises were found to be in a very dirty condition, as well as bad practices in handling and storage of food. However, after consultation with the persons concerned a new awareness of the necessity for strict cleanliness in regard to food handling and storage became apparent. On subsequent inspections, although perfection was not achieved, there was a marked improvement, as food handlers are not aware that routine inspections are made at any time.

FACTORY INSPECTION:

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1942.

PART 1. (Inspections),

PREMISES.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(I) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	20	Nil	Nil
(II) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	44	39	Nil	Nil
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	8	18	Nil	Nil

PART 2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	3	3
Sanitary conveniences (insufficient)	2	2

FACTORY ACT, 1937: Means of escape in case of fire.

During the year new certificates for means of escape in case of fire were issued in respect of Messrs. Pryce Jones' Warehouse and Messrs. Price & Orphin, Ltd.